Summary of Amendments to the Claims

Claim 11: Applicant has incorporated claims 3, 4, 6 and 9 into claim 1 and has further amended claim 11 to indicate that the nonwoven fabric has a basis weight of from 10 to 100 g/m^2 and has reduced the scope of claim 11 to " An interlining consisting essentially of a laminate

Claims 12-17: Applicant has amended claims 12-17 to accommodate the amendments made in new claim 11.

Applicant has also eliminated any multiple claim dependency.

REMARKS

The Examiner asserts that former claims 1-3 are not novel, or in the alternative obvious, in light of U.S. Patent No. 4,725,481 ("'481"), and that former claims 1 and 3 are not novel or, in the alternative, are obvious in light of U.S. Patent No. 4,493,870 ("'870")

Applicants, however, respectfully asserts that in light of the amendments submitted herewith, claims 11-17 are all novel over both the '481 and '870 references. Specifically, Applicants note that the presently claimed invention is directed to interlinings having excellent moisture permeability, waterproof and windproof properties, and directs the Examiner's attention to Table 1 and page 12, line 17 to page 13, line 8 of the application wherein Applicants irrefutably indicate that the excellent properties of such interlinings ("laminated sheet") can be readily imparted to fabrics or base materials ("face fabric" or "face sheet") to which such interlinings are laminated (the "face fabric/laminated sheet combination"). Applicants also indicate at page 13, lines 2-8 that the excellent properties of such interlinings can be "conferred to the base material [or fabric] with relative ease", and that such interlinings can be laminated to a garment face fabric with a simple hot press and in small lots.

As Applicants explained at page 3, lines 8-12 of the specification, fabric processors not only longed for interlinings having excellent moisture permeability, waterproof and windproof properties, but also desired interlinings capable of easily being flexibly manufactured in small lots without requiring the use of large-scale press

machinery. Applicants respectfully assert that the needs of fabric processors have been answered by the interlining presently being claimed. That is, Applicants respectfully assert that the presently claimed interlining has excellent moisture permeability and waterproof and windproof properties, and is readily able to impart these excellent properties to a base material or fabric by being laminated to the base material or fabric with a simple hot press located in the textile processor's own facility.

In contrast, neither the '481 nor the '870 reference ever mentions that the composite structures disclosed therein can be used as interlinings, and certainly never mentions that such composite structures can be easily laminated to a fabric or base material in small lots with a simple hot press located in the textile processor's own facility.

Moreover, the '481 reference is directed to a bicomponent film containing a hydrophobic polymer layer and a hydrophilic polymer layer, wherein the film is bonded to a textile material to produce, for example, a raincoat, jacket, other garment, or tent. The hydrophobic layer is identified at column 10, lines 43-44 as "an essential part of the bicomponent film."

In contrast, the film of Applicants' claimed interlining does not contain a hydrophobic polymer layer, but rather is hydrophilic. The hydrophobic layer of the '481 reference is excluded by Applicants' use of the terms "An interlining consisting essentially of a laminate . . " in claim 11. In fact, Applicants indicate at page 7, lines 3-8 that the copolyetherester elastomers preferably used in making the film of the presently claimed interlinings are those that are disclosed in the '481 reference with a WVTR of at least 3500 g/m^2/24hr. The reference, however, only identifies the hydrophilic layer as having a WVTR of at least 3500 g/m^2/24hr, wherein the WVTR of the hydrophobic layer ranges from 400 to 2500 g/m^2/24hr discloses. (See column 2, lines 12-13 and lines 50-51 and column 8, lines 7-14). As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that the presently claimed invention does not contain a hydrophobic layer.

As the '481 reference, however, indicates that a hydrophobic layer is essential to produce a water vapor permeable and waterproof textile, and Applicants were able to produce a water vapor permeable, waterproof, and windproof base material or fabric by simply laminating an interlining containing a hydrophilic membrane and non-

woven fabric thereto, Applicants respectfully assert that their claimed invention contains an inventive step over the '481 reference.

As the neither the '870 reference nor the '481 reference indicates that the film coated textile materials disclosed therein can be used as interlinings, it is respectfully asserted that claims 11-17 are novel over the reference.

Neither are claims 11-17 obvious in light of the '870 reference. As Applicants already explained above, the presently claimed interlining answers fabric processors needs for an interlining having excellent moisture permeability, waterproof and windproof properties while also being capable of easily being flexibly manufactured in small lots without the use of large-scale press machinery. That is, the presently claimed interlining has excellent moisture permeability and waterproof and windproof properties, and is readily able to impart these excellent properties to a base material or fabric by being laminated to the base material or fabric with a simple hot press located in the textile processor's own facility.

Applicant, however, respectfully asserts that neither the '481 not the '870 references were concerned with solving such a problem but rather were concerned with solving problems wholly unrelated to the problem Applicant faced. As a result, Applicant respectfully asserts that its claimed invention does not lack an inventive step over these references, either alone or in combination.

The '481 reference was concerned with producing less expensive film coated textile materials that contain thinner films. The '870 reference was concerned with developing a film for use as surgical drape and waterproof garments/articles, wherein the film would be capable of rapidly transmitting water-vapor through the film toward the exterior, or weather side of the garment/article, while minimizing the transmission of water-vapor in the opposite direction.

In light of the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove, Applicant respectfully solicits a notice of allowance for new claims 11-17.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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